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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/163,993	09/29/1998	MOHAN ANANDA	04500.913	6131
22804	7590	05/19/2006	EXAMINER	
THE HECKER LAW GROUP 1925 CENTURY PARK EAST SUITE 2300 LOS ANGELES, CA 90067			ABDI, KAMBIZ	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3621	

DATE MAILED: 05/19/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/163,993	Applicant(s) ANANDA, MOHAN	
	Examiner Kambiz Abdi	Art Unit 3621	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 February 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 273-300 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 1-273 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 273-300 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. The prior office actions are incorporated herein by reference. In particular, the observations with respect to claim language, and response to previously presented arguments.
 - Claims 1-272 have been canceled.
 - New claims 273-300 are added.
 - Claims 273-300 are pending.
2. The rejection under 35 USC § 101 has been withdrawn in response to the amendments made by applicant.
3. The rejection under 35 USC § 112 2nd paragraph has been withdrawn.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed February 13, 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reasons:
5. Whitehouse clearly discloses the use of the secure central storage as it is disclosed (See Whitehouse column 10, line 45-column 11, line 29). It is clearly stated that the use of secure central computer is for the safe keeping of the account records of every meter and user accounts related to such virtual meter. It is well understood and practice clearly understood by one skill in the art that secure storage is clearly storage that is secure from access by unauthorized users, such secure storage can be achieved by encrypting the data within the database as it has been clearly stated by the Whitehouse (See Whitehouse column 4, lines 1-50). Whitehouse clearly states all the limitations stated by the applicants in its claimed invention as part of the original USPS requirements that are well known to one skill in the art. However, the examiner has provided additional art to provide a clear understanding of state of the art and the claimed limitations, which has been claimed in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

6. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

7. Claims 273-300 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter, which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Examiner has reviewed the disclosure of the application and has been unable to locate any specific support for the amendments made to the claims within the disclosure of the application. Applicant must provide the page and line number for any such support for the amended claims within the disclosure of the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 273-300 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,005,945 to Whitehouse in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,567,794 to Cordery et al. and U.S. Patent No. 4752950 to Le Carpenter.

As per claims 273, 280, and 286, Whitehouse clearly discloses an on-line postage system and method comprising:

a postage vendor system comprising (See Whitehouse abstract):

an Internet interface for communication with a plurality of client systems (See Whitehouse figure 4, and associated text, column 7, line 54-column 8, line 3) ;

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a database comprising a plurality of encrypted user account records respectively associated with a plurality of registered users, said user account records each comprising a user private key for digitally signing postal indicia data for postage purchased by a respective registered user, a user meter license number, and user balance information (See Whitehouse column 10, line 45-column 11, line 29); and

a transaction server having a cryptographic device coupled thereto, wherein said transaction server is configured to use said cryptographic device to process a postage request received from a client system (See Whitehouse column 7, line 54-column 8, line 63, column 27, lines 9-26, and column 12, lines 16-26);

wherein processing said postage request comprises authenticating said postage request via said cryptographic device by exchanging a random number-based challenge-response with said client system, said cryptographic device accessing in said database an encrypted user account record associated with a registered user of said client system, and updating said encrypted user account record (See Whitehouse column 7, line 54-column 8, line 63, column 27, lines 9-26, and column 12, lines 16-64); and

an administrator module in communication with said postage vendor system via said Internet interface, said administrator module comprising a statistical analysis report module configured to provide one or more administrator personnel with one or more reports about user transactions occurring at said postage vendor system, wherein said administrator module comprises software code executed by a processor. (See Whitehouse column 11, line 60-column 12, line 14).

What is not explicitly disclosed by Whitehouse is the specific user authentication based on a exchange of random number based challenge response. However, Cordery clearly discloses a challenge/response system and method for authenticating a client request in a postage metering system (See Cordery column 9, lines33-column 10, lines 39). In addition it is clearly disclosed by the Cordery reference the use of private key for encryption and decryption of data stored in a datacenter as signed and ciphered text for secure storage as well as integrity of data verification (See Cordery column 7, line 10-column 9, line 15). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to add the authentication step of challenge/response of the Cordrry as

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well as the encryption/decryption method to that of the Whitehouse for further enhancing the security of the communication in addition to better prevention of unauthorized request in addition to securing the storage of the data within the database using secret keys.

Furthermore, Carpenter clearly discloses the monitoring of the user activities by a central system for users, which are geographically dispersed (See Carpenter column 1, line 54-column 2, line 2, column 2, lines 44-66). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made toad the teachings of Carpenter to that of Whitehouse for better reporting and access to information pertinent to the control of the dispensed franking of postage indicia.

As per claims 274-279, 281-285, 287-300, Whitehouse modified by Cordery and Le Carpenter teaches a postage meter system providing various types of functionalities such as balance update, fund transfer, updating zip codes, secure communication via Internet, and account record (See Whitehouse figures 4-7, Cordery column 7, line 10-column 9, line 15 and column 9, lines33-column 10, lines 39, and Le Carpenter abstract, figures 1-3 and associated text). As it has been motivated in the above claims rejection.

Examiner has pointed out particular column and lines in the references contained in the prior arts of record in the body of this action for the convenience of the applicant. Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the response, to consider fully the entire references as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior arts or disclosed by the examiner.

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Conclusion

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Kambiz Abdi** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-6702**. The Examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:30am-5:00pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, **James Trammell** can be reached at **(571) 272-6712**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see

<http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>

Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231**

or faxed to:

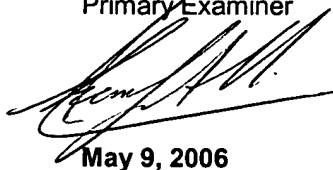
(571) 273-8300 [Official communications; including After Final communications labeled "Box AF"]

(571) 273-6702 [Informal/Draft communications, labeled "PROPOSED" or "DRAFT"]

Hand delivered responses should be brought to the Examiner in the

Knox Building, 50 Dulany St. Alexandria, VA.

Kambiz Abdi
Primary Examiner



KAMBIZ ABDI
PRIMARY EXAMINER
AK 3621

May 9, 2006